# BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Second Amended	)	•
Accusation Against:	)	
•	)	
	)	
Christie Eling Chu Yee, M.D.	)	Case No. 800-2016-020833
	)	
Physician's and Surgeon's	Ć	•
Certificate No. A 121101	<b>)</b>	
	)	
Respondent	)	
-	)	

#### **DECISION**

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on September 20, 2019.

IT IS SO ORDERED: August 21, 2019.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Kristina D. Lawson, J.D., Chair

Panel B

1	XAVIER BECERRA				
2	Attorney General of California STEVE DIEHL				
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General SARAH J. JACOBS				
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 255899				
5	California Department of Justice 2550 Mariposa Mall, Room 5090				
6	Fresno, CA 93721 Telephone: (559) 705-2312				
7	Facsimile: (559) 445-5106 Attorneys for Complainant				
8		- X			
9	BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA				
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS				
11	STATE OF C.	ALIFURNIA			
12					
13	In the Matter of the Second Amended	Case No. 800-2016-020833			
14	Accusation Against:	OAH No. 2019020162			
15	CHRISTIE ELING CHU YEE, M.D. 1075				
	S. Burlwood Dr. Anaheim, CA 92807-5015	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER			
16	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.				
17	A 121101 Respondent.				
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20		EED by and between the parties to the above-			
21	entitled proceedings that the following matters are	e true:			
22	PARTIES				
23	1. Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board				
24	of California (Board). She brought this action sol	ely in her official capacity and is represented in			
25	this matter by Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by Sarah J. Jacobs,				
26	Deputy Attorney General.				
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- 2. Respondent Christie Eling Chu Yee, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney Peter Osinoff, Esq., whose address is: 355 South Grand Avenue, Suite 1750, Los Angeles, CA 90071.
- 3. On or about April 25, 2012, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 121101 to Christie Eling Chu Yee, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in the Second Amended Accusation No. 800-2016-020833, and will expire on January 31, 2020, unless renewed.

#### **JURISDICTION**

- 4. Second Amended Accusation No. 800-2016-020833 was filed before the Board, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on December 28, 2018. Respondent timely filed her Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation.
- 5. A copy of the Second Amended Accusation No. 800-2016-020833 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

#### ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in the Second Amended Accusation No. 800-2016-020833. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 7. Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Second Amended Accusation; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her; the right to present evidence and to testify on her own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

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8. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

#### **CULPABILITY**

- 9. Respondent does not contest that, at an administrative hearing, complainant could establish a prima facie case with respect to the charges and allegations contained in the Second Amended Accusation No. 800-2016-020833 and that she has thereby subjected her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 121101 to disciplinary action.
- 10. Respondent agrees that if she ever petitions for early termination or modification of probation, or if an accusation and/or petition to revoke probation is filed against her before the Board, all of the charges and allegations contained in Second Amended Accusation No. 800-2016-020833 shall be deemed true, correct and fully admitted by respondent for purposes of any such proceeding or any other licensing proceeding involving respondent in the State of California.
- 11. Respondent agrees that her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate is subject to discipline and she agrees to be bound by the Board's probationary terms as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

#### **CONTINGENCY**

12. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Medical Board of California. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Medical Board of California may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or her counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.

- 13. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including PDF and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 14. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

#### **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 121101 issued to Respondent Christie Eling Chu Yee, M.D. is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for four (4) years on the following terms and conditions.

1. PROFESSIONALISM PROGRAM (ETHICS COURSE). Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a professionalism program, that meets the requirements of Title 16, California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 1358.1. Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete that program. Respondent shall provide any information and documents that the program may deem pertinent. Respondent shall successfully complete the classroom component of the program not later than six (6) months after Respondent's initial enrollment, and the longitudinal component of the program not later than the time specified by the program, but no later than one (1) year after attending the classroom component. The professionalism program shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure.

A professionalism program taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the program would have been approved by the Board or its designee had the program been taken after the effective date of this Decision.

Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the program or not later

than 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

2. <u>PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION AS A CONDITION PRECEDENT</u>. Within 30 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, and on whatever periodic basis thereafter may be required by the Board or its designee, Respondent shall undergo and complete a psychiatric evaluation (and psychological testing, if deemed necessary) by a Board-appointed board certified psychiatrist, who shall consider any information provided by the Board or designee and any other information the psychiatrist deems relevant, and shall furnish a written evaluation report to the Board or its designee. Psychiatric evaluations conducted prior to the effective date of the Decision shall not be accepted towards the fulfillment of this requirement. Respondent shall pay the cost of all psychiatric evaluations and psychological testing.

Respondent shall comply with all restrictions or conditions recommended by the evaluating psychiatrist within 15 calendar days after being notified by the Board or its designee.

#### Condition Precedent

Respondent shall not engage in the practice of medicine until notified by the Board or its designee that Respondent is mentally fit to practice medicine safely. The period of time that Respondent is not practicing medicine shall not be counted toward completion of the term of probation.

3. <u>PSYCHOTHERAPY</u>. Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee for prior approval the name and qualifications of a California-licensed board certified psychiatrist or a licensed psychologist who has a doctoral degree in psychology and at least five years of postgraduate experience in the diagnosis and treatment of emotional and mental disorders. Upon approval, Respondent shall undergo and continue psychotherapy treatment, including any modifications to the frequency of psychotherapy, until the Board or its designee deems that no further psychotherapy is necessary.

The psychotherapist shall consider any information provided by the Board or its designee and any other information the psychotherapist deems relevant and shall furnish a written evaluation report to the Board or its designee. Respondent shall cooperate in providing the psychotherapist with any information and documents that the psychotherapist may deem

pertinent.

Respondent shall have the treating psychotherapist submit quarterly status reports to the Board or its designee. The Board or its designee may require Respondent to undergo psychiatric evaluations by a Board-appointed board certified psychiatrist. If, prior to the completion of probation, Respondent is found to be mentally unfit to resume the practice of medicine without restrictions, the Board shall retain continuing jurisdiction over Respondent's license and the period of probation shall be extended until the Board determines that Respondent is mentally fit to resume the practice of medicine without restrictions.

Respondent shall pay the cost of all psychotherapy and psychiatric evaluations.

4. <u>SOLO PRACTICE PROHIBITION</u>. Respondent is prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine. Prohibited solo practice includes, but is not limited to, a practice where: 1) Respondent merely shares office space with another physician but is not affiliated for purposes of providing patient care, or 2) Respondent is the sole physician practitioner at that location.

If Respondent fails to establish a practice with another physician or secure employment in an appropriate practice setting within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to cease the practice of medicine within three (3) calendar days after being so notified. The Respondent shall not resume practice until an appropriate practice setting is established.

If, during the course of the probation, the Respondent's practice setting changes and the Respondent is no longer practicing in a setting in compliance with this Decision, the Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee within five (5) calendar days of the practice setting change. If Respondent fails to establish a practice with another physician or secure employment in an appropriate practice setting within 60 calendar days of the practice setting change, Respondent shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to cease the practice of medicine within three (3) calendar days after being so notified. The Respondent shall not resume practice until an appropriate practice setting is established.

5. NOTIFICATION. Within seven (7) days of the effective date of this Decision, the

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This condition shall apply to any change(s) in hospitals, other facilities or insurance carrier.

- SUPERVISION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS AND ADVANCED PRACTICE 6. NURSES. During probation, Respondent is prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses.
- OBEY ALL LAWS. Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, all rules 7. governing the practice of medicine in California and remain in full compliance with any court ordered criminal probation, payments, and other orders.
- QUARTERLY DECLARATIONS. Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations 8. under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Board, stating whether there has been compliance with all the conditions of probation.

Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations not later than 10 calendar days after the end of the preceding quarter.

#### 9. GENERAL PROBATION REQUIREMENTS.

#### Compliance with Probation Unit

Respondent shall comply with the Board's probation unit.

### Address Changes

Respondent shall, at all times, keep the Board informed of Respondent's business and residence addresses, email address (if available), and telephone number. Changes of such addresses shall be immediately communicated in writing to the Board or its designee. Under no circumstances shall a post office box serve as an address of record, except as allowed by Business and Professions Code section 2021(b).

#### Place of Practice

Respondent shall not engage in the practice of medicine in Respondent's or patient's place of residence, unless the patient resides in a skilled nursing facility or other similar licensed facility.

#### License Renewal

Respondent shall maintain a current and renewed California physician's and surgeon's license.

#### Travel or Residence Outside California

Respondent shall immediately inform the Board or its designee, in writing, of travel to any areas outside the jurisdiction of California which lasts, or is contemplated to last, more than thirty (30) calendar days.

In the event Respondent should leave the State of California to reside or to practice,
Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing 30 calendar days prior to the dates of
departure and return.

- 10. <u>INTERVIEW WITH THE BOARD OR ITS DESIGNEE</u>. Respondent shall be available in person upon request for interviews either at Respondent's place of business or at the probation unit office, with or without prior notice throughout the term of probation.
- 11. NON-PRACTICE WHILE ON PROBATION. Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing within 15 calendar days of any periods of non-practice lasting more than 30 calendar days and within 15 calendar days of Respondent's return to practice. Non-practice is defined as any period of time Respondent is not practicing medicine as defined in Business and Professions Code sections 2051 and 2052 for at least 40 hours in a calendar month in direct patient care, clinical activity or teaching, or other activity as approved by the Board. If Respondent resides in California and is considered to be in non-practice, Respondent shall comply with all terms and conditions of probation. All time spent in an intensive training program which has been approved by the Board or its designee shall not be considered non-practice and does not relieve Respondent from complying with all the terms and conditions of probation. Practicing medicine in another state of the United States or Federal jurisdiction while

on probation with the medical licensing authority of that state or jurisdiction shall not be considered non-practice. A Board-ordered suspension of practice shall not be considered as a period of non-practice.

In the event Respondent's period of non-practice while on probation exceeds 18 calendar months, Respondent shall successfully complete the Federation of State Medical Boards' Special Purpose Examination, or, at the Board's discretion, a clinical competence assessment program that meets the criteria of Condition 18 of the current version of the Board's "Manual of Model Disciplinary Orders and Disciplinary Guidelines" prior to resuming the practice of medicine.

Respondent's period of non-practice while on probation shall not exceed two (2) years.

Periods of non-practice will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term.

Periods of non-practice for a Respondent residing outside of California will relieve Respondent of the responsibility to comply with the probationary terms and conditions with the exception of this condition and the following terms and conditions of probation: Obey All Laws; General Probation Requirements; Quarterly Declarations; Abstain from the Use of Alcohol and/or Controlled Substances; and Biological Fluid Testing.

- 12. <u>COMPLETION OF PROBATION</u>. Respondent shall comply with all financial obligations (e.g., restitution, probation costs) not later than 120 calendar days prior to the completion of probation. Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's certificate shall be fully restored.
- 13. <u>VIOLATION OF PROBATION</u>. Failure to fully comply with any term or condition of probation is a violation of probation. If Respondent violates probation in any respect, the Board, after giving Respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an Accusation, or Petition to Revoke Probation, or an Interim Suspension Order is filed against Respondent during probation, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.
- 14. <u>LICENSE SURRENDER</u>. Following the effective date of this Decision, if

  Respondent ceases practicing due to retirement or health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy

the terms and conditions of probation, Respondent may request to surrender his or her license. The Board reserves the right to evaluate Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion in determining whether or not to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the surrender, Respondent shall within 15 calendar days deliver Respondent's wallet and wall certificate to the Board or its designee and Respondent shall no longer practice medicine. Respondent will no longer be subject to the terms and conditions of probation. If Respondent re-applies for a medical license, the application shall be treated as a petition for reinstatement of a revoked certificate.

15. PROBATION MONITORING COSTS. Respondent shall pay the costs associated with probation monitoring each and every year of probation, as designated by the Board, which may be adjusted on an annual basis. Such costs shall be payable to the Medical Board of California and delivered to the Board or its designee no later than January 31 of each calendar year.

#### **ACCEPTANCE**

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Peter Osinoff, Esq. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

DATED:	7/29/19	CHRISTIE ELENG CHU YEE, M.D. Respondent	<u></u>
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1	I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Christie Eling Chu Yee, M.D. the terms			
2	and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary			
3	Order: Lapprove its form and content.			
4.				
5				
6	DATED: 7/24/19			
7	PÉTER OSINOFF, ESQ. Attorney for Respondent			
8				
9	<u>ENDORSEMENT</u>			
10	The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order in the matter of Respondent			
11	Christie Eling Chu Yee, M.D., is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Medical			
12	Board of California.			
13	DATED: 1-25-19 Respectfully submitted,			
14	XAVIER BECERRA			
15	Attorney General of California STEVE DIEHL			
16	Supervising Deputy Attorney General			
17	SOLF			
18	SARAH J. JACOBS Deputy Attorney General			
20	Attorneys for Complainant			
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## Exhibit A

**Second Amended Accusation** 

No. 800-2016-020833

FILED STATE OF CALIFORNIA MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA 1 XAVIER BECERRA SACRAMENTO £ Attorney General of California 2 STEVE DIEHL Supervising Deputy Attorney General 3 SARAH J. JACOBS Deputy Attorney General California Department of Justice 4 State Bar No. 255899 2550 Mariposa Mall, Room 5090 5 Fresno, CA 93721 6 Telephone: (559) 705-2312 Facsimile: (559) 445-5106 7 Attorneys for Complainant 8 BEFORE THE 9 MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS 10 STATE OF CALIFORNIA 11 12 In the Matter of the Second Amended Case No. 800-2016-020833 13 Accusation Against: SECOND AMENDED ACCUSATION 14 Christie Eling Chu Yee, M.D. 1075 S. Burlwood Dr. 15 Anaheim, CA 92807-5015 16 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 121101, 17 Respondent. 18 19 20 Complainant alleges: 21 **PARTIES** 22 Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant) brings this First Amended Accusation solely in 23 her official capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of 24 Consumer Affairs (Board). 25 On or about April 25, 2012, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's 26 Certificate Number A 121101 to Christie Eling Chu Yee, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's 27 and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought 28 herein and will expire on January 31, 2020, unless renewed.

(CHRISTIE ELING CHU YEE, M.D.) SECOND AMENDED ACCUSATION NO. 800-2016-020833

**JURISDICTION** 

- 3. This Second Amended Accusation is brought before the Board, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.
  - 4. Section 2227 of the Code states:
- "(a) A licensee whose matter has been heard by an administrative law judge of the Medical Quality Hearing Panel as designated in Section 11371 of the Government Code, or whose default has been entered, and who is found guilty, or who has entered into a stipulation for disciplinary action with the board, may, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter:
  - "(1) Have his or her license revoked upon order of the board.
- "(2) Have his or her right to practice suspended for a period not to exceed one year upon order of the board.
- "(3) Be placed on probation and be required to pay the costs of probation monitoring upon order of the board.
- "(4) Be publicly reprimanded by the board. The public reprimand may include a requirement that the licensee complete relevant educational courses approved by the board.
- "(5) Have any other action taken in relation to discipline as part of an order of probation, as the board or an administrative law judge may deem proper.
- "(b) Any matter heard pursuant to subdivision (a), except for warning letters, medical review or advisory conferences, professional competency examinations, continuing education activities, and cost reimbursement associated therewith that are agreed to with the board and successfully completed by the licensee, or other matters made confidential or privileged by existing law, is deemed public, and shall be made available to the public by the board pursuant to Section 803.1."
  - 5. Section 2234 of the Code, states:
- "The board shall take action against any licensee who is charged with unprofessional conduct. In addition to other provisions of this article, unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- "(a) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of this chapter.
  - "(b) Gross negligence.
- "(c) Repeated negligent acts. To be repeated, there must be two or more negligent acts or omissions. An initial negligent act or omission followed by a separate and distinct departure from the applicable standard of care shall constitute repeated negligent acts.
- "(1) An initial negligent diagnosis followed by an act or omission medically appropriate for that negligent diagnosis of the patient shall constitute a single negligent act.
- "(2) When the standard of care requires a change in the diagnosis, act, or omission that constitutes the negligent act described in paragraph (1), including, but not limited to, a reevaluation of the diagnosis or a change in treatment, and the licensee's conduct departs from the applicable standard of care, each departure constitutes a separate and distinct breach of the standard of care.
  - "(d) Incompetence.
- "(e) The commission of any act involving dishonesty or corruption which is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon.
  - "(f) Any action or conduct which would have warranted the denial of a certificate.
- "(g) The practice of medicine from this state into another state or country without meeting the legal requirements of that state or country for the practice of medicine. Section 2314 shall not apply to this subdivision. This subdivision shall become operative upon the implementation of the proposed registration program described in Section 2052.5.
- "(h) The repeated failure by a certificate holder, in the absence of good cause, to attend and participate in an interview by the board. This subdivision shall only apply to a certificate holder who is the subject of an investigation by the board."

#### **CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

#### (Unprofessional Conduct)

6. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234 in that she committed acts constituting unprofessional conduct. The circumstances are as follows:

- 7. On March 8, 2016, respondent left her 2-year-old and 9-month-old daughters alone in her parked, locked vehicle with the windows rolled up while she went to work as a pediatrician. At approximately 9:44 a.m., respondent drove into the parking lot of her employing medical facility with her two daughters in the vehicle. She did not take them to daycare because the fees for daycare increased. She was also hesitant to take them to daycare because she was breastfeeding her youngest daughter, who refused to take a bottle, and cried when left at daycare. Respondent left her young children buckled in their car seats inside her vehicle in the parking lot and went to work. The children were unattended until she returned at 10:58 a.m. to check on their welfare. Respondent then stayed in the vehicle with her children until 1:09 p.m., when she returned to the medical facility, leaving the children unattended again.
- 8. At approximately 1:20 p.m. that same day, a medical assistant at the facility reported two young children unattended and screaming inside a locked vehicle in the parking lot; the vehicle's engine was not running. The medical assistant notified the office manager of the medical facility. The officer manager noticed that both children were without food or water, all of the windows were rolled up, and the vehicle was locked. The office manager contacted authorities.
- 9. After checking respondent's residence, authorities placed both of respondent's daughters into protective custody with Child Protective Services for two days.

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